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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1152, MAY 24, 5 PM

SENT BONN PRIORITY 1020, REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 1152.

REFERENCE BERLIN TELEGRAMS 1000 AND 1004 TO BONN

IN DISCUSSING SPANDAU PRISON CERTAIN MEMBERS OF BERLIN PRESS CORPS CONTINUE EITHER TO INDULGE IN ORGY OF CREATIVE WRITING OR TO DEPEND ON SOURCE WHICH IS BADLY INFORMED ABOUT ACTUAL STATUS OF ALLEGED "DISCUSSIONS". TODAY'S "TAGESSPIEGEL" CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE HEADED "SOVIETS ALSO ARE FOR LIQUIDATION OF SPANDAU". ARTICLE, WHICH DATELINED BERLIN, GOES ON TO SAY THAT IN CONNECTION WITH PLAN OF THREE WESTERN POWERS TO LIQUIDATE SPANDAU PRISON AND TO HANDLE ELSEWHERE THE THREE LAST PRISONERS SENTENCED BY THE NURENBERG TRIBUNAL, MEMBERS OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAVE NOW STATED THEIR AGREEMENT. THIS INFORMATION REPORTED TO HAVE COME YESTERDAY FROM AN INFORMED ALLIED SOURCE IN WEST BERLIN.

ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT, ACCORDING TO PLANS AS REVEALED SO FAR, HESS SHOULD BE PLACED IN AN INSANE ASYLUM, WHILE SPEER AND VON SCHIRACH WOULD BE PUT IN ANOTHER PRISON. IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, WHETHER SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO THEIR TRANSFER TO WEST GERMAN PRISONS, SINCE IN FINAL NEGOTIATIONS THEY WILL PROBABLY MAINTAIN VIEW THAT PRISON IN SOVIET ZONE MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED. IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE, ARTICLE SPECULATES, THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED ON A BERLIN PRISON ONE SMALL PORTION OF WHICH WOULD BE PLACED UNDER FOUR-POWER ADMINISTRATION

[illegible] INFORMATION OFFICER IS REFUSING TO COMMENT REGARDING NUMEROUS INQUIRIES HE IS RECEIVING FROM PRESS AS RESULT OF TAGESSPIEGEL ARTICLE. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, ALLIED PRESS OFFICERS SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED SPECIFICALLY TO DENY, IN RESPONSE TO

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-2- 1152, MAY 24, 5 PM, FROM BERLIN

SUCH INQUIRIES, THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN PLACE REGARDING LIQUIDATION OF SPANDAU.

GUFLER

SC

JUN 3 1957